



Members of the 58th IBCT Headquarters and Headquarters Company stand in formation during a send-off ceremony on April 26. After the ceremony the Soldiers boarded buses and departed for Fort Dix, N.J., on their way to the mission in Iraq.

58th IBCT Deploys

By Rick Roth, MDNG Public Affairs

The last contingent of Soldiers from the 58th Infantry Brigade Combat Team departed Maryland on June 12 en route to Iraq. Four hundred members of the brigade's 1st Squadron, 158th Cavalry Regiment departed Annapolis for Fort Dix, N.J., where they will prepare for their deployment to Iraq.

The unit was the final increment in a series of mobilizations that began April 26, when the IBCT's Headquarters and Headquarters Company departed the Pikesville Armory. The 1st Battalion, 175th Infantry Regiment, augmented by maintenance personnel from the 729th Brigade Support Battalion, followed in May.

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Martin O'Malley
Governor



Anthony G. Brown
Lt. Governor



Martin O'Malley
Governor

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Lt. Governor

Maj. Gen. Bruce F. Tuxill
Adjutant General

TO THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE MARYLAND MILITARY DEPARTMENT:

Summer is here and this remains a very dynamic time for the Department both at home and abroad as the high tempo of our dual federal and state missions continue unabated.

The Department had the privilege of providing briefings to Governor Martin O'Malley, our new Commander-in-Chief, in early March at the State Emergency Operations Center at Camp Fretterd. A few weeks later, a similar briefing was provided to Department of Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff and Under Secretary R. David Paulison, who also serves as director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency. In addition, these officials were given a tour of the Maryland Joint Operations Center. These important briefings and tours gave our civilian leadership an opportunity to become familiar with our department, its people and its capabilities.

A potential catastrophe was averted in Garrett County thanks to the quick response of aviation units of the Maryland Army National Guard. When an earthen dam threatened to overflow, the Guard quickly flew divers and pumps to the scene. The Maryland Emergency Management Agency coordinated the State's response, which included the National Guard, Department of the Environment, State Police and others.

The 58th Infantry Brigade Combat Team of the Maryland Army National Guard has been deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. This is the largest combat deployment of Maryland Army National Guard Soldiers since World War II. Their deployment is expected to last one year.

More than 230 Maryland Army National Guard Soldiers assigned to the Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, task force have returned home after a year in Cuba guarding captured terrorists. A Freedom Salute was held June 3 to thank these outstanding men and women for their service.

Congratulations to Col. Annette Deener, Chief of Staff of the Maryland Army National Guard, for her induction into the Maryland Women's Hall of Fame. The induction ceremony was held in the Miller Senate Office Building on Mar. 14.

In February, the 175th Wing of the Maryland Air National Guard hosted a group of air attaches representing 32 different countries, including Vietnam, China and South Africa. The attaches received briefings on the wing's mission, its operations in support of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, and given a tour of the facilities at the Warfield Air National Guard Base.

The 175th Wing has also been heavily involved in fielding the new A-10C. This advanced, precision engagement version of the proven tank-killer brings our A-10s into the 21st century and marks the second time the Air Force has turned to the Maryland Air Guard to field a major advanced weapon system.

The Maryland Defense Force Engineer Corps has embarked upon a new mission of conducting comprehensive installation inspections of 22 of our Maryland National Guard facilities around the state. Many of these installations are more than 60 years old and need significant investment for recapitalization. The results of the MDDF inspections will help the facilities managers to identify and document facility deficiencies to obtain limited maintenance and repair funds, optimize their expenditure and to prioritize critical maintenance requirements.

MEMA hosted its 22nd Severe Storms Awareness Conference at the Maritime Institute in Linthicum, Maryland. Last year's conference had more than 300 attendees, with presentations from top officials of the National Hurricane Center, the National Weather Service and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

On a more somber note, the Maryland National Guard continues to lose members to traffic accidents. Each of you is irreplaceable to our organization and to your families as well. Be especially cautious in driving as the weather improves and we enter the vacation season. Schools are out for the summer and more traffic is on our roads. Slow down...it's better to get to your destination late but in one piece than not to arrive at all.

We still have a lot of work to be done and we will continue to move forward. Take care of yourselves and your families. Godspeed.

Bruce F. Tuxill
Major General, MDANG
The Adjutant General

58th IBCT Deploys

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Members of the 58th IBCT participate in combat lifesaver training at Fort Dix, N.J., after being mobilized for duty in Iraq.

"We are deeply indebted to these Citizen-Soldiers and their families for their sacrifices in the defense of our nation and state," said Maj. Gen. Bruce F. Tuxill, the adjutant general of Maryland. "They are well-trained, well-equipped, well-led, and I have every confidence in their ability to perform their mission."

Approximately 1,300 Maryland National Guard soldiers have been mobilized and will be deployed to Iraq as a part of this call-up. In addition, troops from the New Mexico and California Army National Guards are augmenting the 58th IBCT.

The 58th IBCT received an alert order in February and began preparing for this specific deployment at that time. While at Fort Dix, the Soldiers will receive specialized training relating to the missions they are expected to perform overseas.

The 58th IBCT is expected to be deployed for approximately 12 months, including the time spent training at Fort Dix. Guard officials anticipate that the Soldiers will spend ten months serving in Iraq. The exact missions and locations of the deploying 58th IBCT units are not being released for security reasons.

Guard officials emphasized the crucial role that the support of families and employers play in the success of the all-volunteer force. The support and understanding of families and employers is what makes an all-volunteer force possible.

For this reason Maryland has an extensive network in place to care for and support soldiers' family members. This support ranges from National Guard Family Assistance Centers, with full-time and volunteer staff throughout the state, to the "Partners in Care" program developed by the Joint Force Headquarters chaplain's office, wherein local congregations provide assistance to Guard members and their families in need.

This mobilization marks Maryland's largest federal call-up since 1968, when most of the Maryland National Guard was federalized during the Baltimore Riots. It is Maryland's largest combat mobilization since 1941, when the Maryland National Guard was federalized in anticipation of the outbreak of World War II.



This child was one of the many friends and family members who gathered for the 1st Battalion, 175th Infantry Regiment's sendoff ceremony at the Towson Armory in May.

Army Guard Aircrews Respond to Oakland Dam Emergency

Story by Rick Roth, MDNG Public Affairs

Photos by Chief Warrant Officer Howard Halucha and Sgt. 1st Class Donald Claxton

In early March rising water levels in an Oakland, Md., reservoir afforded two agencies within the Military Department a chance to work together. Beavers had blocked the drains of the reservoir in the western Maryland town, resulting in excess water pressure on the earthen dam holding the water back. A collapse would send the 7.5 million gallons of water hurling towards the 25 homes downstream.

"The beavers had built a fortress inside," said Roger Bennett, referring to the clogged drains. Bennett is the Western Maryland regional representative for the Maryland Emergency Management Agency and was responsible for coordinating state efforts in support of local emergency managers.

As a regional representative Bennett also endorses requests for materiel and personnel from a requesting town while at the same time serving as eyes and ears for MEMA, which is headquartered in Reisterstown, Md.

"I help to provide situational awareness back to the Maryland Joint Operations Center," said Bennett.

Manned 24/7, the Maryland Joint Operations Center or MJOC, located at MEMA headquarters, serves as the first link in the Maryland emergency response chain. Representatives like Bennett notify the

MJOC when there is need for a state level emergency response. MJOC personnel, which include MEMA and Maryland National Guard members, then begin coordinating a response and monitoring the situation.

Initial efforts at relieving the water pressure involved an attempt to clear the

drains of debris.

On March 6 Maryland Army National Guard aviators transported rescue divers from the Middle River Volunteer Fire Department by UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter. During the night six divers entered the water in four degrees Fahrenheit temperature weather but were unable to clear the drains.

Pumps were also brought in from Baltimore City to drain the rising water however they proved to be too small to be effective.

To further complicate things Oakland and the surrounding areas received 12 inches of fresh snow on March 7, hampering efforts and adding precipitation to the already swollen reservoir. With warmer temperatures predicted in the coming week the emergency managers developed a new plan.

It was determined that larger pumps were needed.

The rental and delivery of two 5,000-gallon-per-minute water pumps from Godwin Pumps of America, Inc. in Pittsburgh, Pa., was coordinated through MEMA. Further coordination through MEMA brought back Maryland Army National Guard aviators from Company B, 3rd Battalion, 126th Aviation Regiment and Company C, 2nd Battalion 224th Aviation Regiment.



A Maryland Army National Guard CH-47 Chinook helicopter is used to hoist a diesel fuel tank into position on top of the dam.



Aviators recover slings used during the operation.

Utilizing a CH-47 Chinook helicopter the pilots and crew rigged and moved a 500 gallon diesel fuel tank and two 8,900-pound pumps into place on top of the dam. By the afternoon of March 9 all of the pumping equipment was in place and working to full capacity.

"This mission was a tremendous success," said Col. Fritz Kirklighter, 29th Combat Aviation Brigade commander. "Citizen-Soldiers took time off from their jobs and families to help their neighbors in need. We were needed to support the people of Maryland, which also gave our Soldiers better training to refine both our state and combat operation missions."

"The unified chain of command we were running with there really worked out well," said Bennett referring to the cooperation between local and state agencies.

By March 13 the water level in the reservoir was restored to a safe level.

Capt. David Magness, MDARNG, contributed to this story.

MDARNG Assists With JROTC Competition

Members of Army Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps programs from across the Baltimore area gathered at the Gunpowder Military Reservation in Glen Arm, Md., April 24 to participate in an intensive leadership competition dubbed "Raider Challenge."

Raider Challenge, which was hosted by the Patriot Battalion of the Patapsco High School JROTC, involved cadets from seven Baltimore County public school JROTC programs. The schools represented Army, Air Force and Naval JROTC programs.

Participating in the competition were: Patapsco, Atholton, Dundalk, Kenwood, Overlea, Chesapeake, and Francis Wood High Schools.

The purpose of the event was to promote esprit de corps, teamwork, self-confidence and citizenship for members of the invited JROTC units. The competition included a physical fitness test, a first aid and litter carry, rock wall climbing, an egg toss, a tug-of-war, the infa-

mous "Izzy Dizzy," a rope bridge, and an obstacle course.

The teams arrived at 7 a.m. and events started promptly at 8 a.m. with an opening ceremony, followed by the first activity at 8:15 a.m.

Maryland Army National Guard units, including the Recruiting & Retention Battalion; Company B, 1st Battalion, 20th Special Forces Group and individuals from the 1st Battalion, 175th Infantry Regiment, supported the competition. The all-day event lasted until 5 p.m.

The winner of this year's competition was Patapsco High School. Second place went to Overlea High School, with Atholton High School taking third place.



1ST PLACE
Patapsco
High School

2ND PLACE
Overlea
High School

3RD PLACE
Atholton
High School

Maryland Guardsmen Complete Year-long Guantanamo Deployment

By 1st Lt. Wayde Minami, MDNG Public Affairs

Photos by Staff Sgt. Jon Soucy and Sgt. Jim Greenhill

For more than a year, they pulled 12-hour shifts standing guard over some of the most dangerous men on the planet.

During that time, they and their comrades were the targets of more than 200 physical assaults – including the infamous detainee “cocktails” consisting of drinking cups filled with feces, urine and other bodily fluids – and received more than 700 threats of violence against themselves and their families.

But on March 9 it was “mission accomplished” as the Maryland Army National Guard welcomed its 238 members of Joint Task Force-Guantanamo home.

At a time when media reports use words like “torture” and “injustice” to describe the detention of enemy combatants at the U.S. naval base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, Maryland Soldiers who served at the detention facility used words like “professional” and “humane.”

“For someone to have [a “cocktail”] thrown in their face and just walk off the block and change their uniform and go back to work – that shows an extreme amount of restraint and professionalism,” said Capt. Matthew C. Shanks, who commanded the JTF’s external security company.

“Every Soldier, Sailor, Airman and Marine that works down there handles

themselves with the utmost professionalism and restraint, and treated the detainees with respect even when the average person wouldn’t be able to.”

“I very much believe that the detainees are being treated very, very humanely,” said Capt. Bryan E. Hughes, who served as the JTF headquarters company commander during the deployment. “There’ve been visitors who’ve said that the living conditions, quality of the health care, quality of food is better than prisons in Europe. It’s a very well run operation, and it was an outstanding professional experience.”

Shanks agreed. “I was a criminal justice major,” he said. “I’ve toured prison facilities in the U.S. and I think we treat the detainees better than we treat prisoners in our own prison system.”

Shanks and Hughes were two of the Maryland Guardsmen selected to deploy with the task force, which was made up of Soldiers drawn from units around the state. Both agreed that the highlight of the tour was the opportunity to work in a joint environment, where they gained invaluable experience working with members of the other services.

“It was awesome,” Hughes said. “In my company I had Marines, I had Navy, I had Air Force. It was a total joint environment.”

The JTF HHC also included 68 Maryland Guardsmen from Joint Force Headquarters, the 29th Infantry Division’s Division Support Command and 3rd Brigade headquarters, the 229th Maintenance Support Battalion and the 70th Regiment (Leadership).

Maryland Guardsmen filled a variety of other positions within the JTF, up to and including its deputy commander – a position filled by Brig. Gen. Edward A. Leacock, Maryland’s assistant adjutant general for Army.

Company E of the 629th Military Intelligence Battalion, which Shanks



Lt. Gen. H Steven Blum, right, chief of the National Guard Bureau, talks with Pvt. 1st Class Brandon Ross while visiting Guard members deployed with JTF-Guantanamo Nov. 15, 2006. Ross was assigned to the 629th Military Intelligence Battalion.

commanded, was responsible for external security at Camp America and Camp Delta and provided a quick reaction force in the event of an emergency inside the camps. In addition to a platoon of airborne infantrymen from the 629th MI Battalion’s long range surveillance detachment, the company included two platoons drawn from other units, primarily the 1st Battalion, 175th Infantry Regiment and the 2nd Battalion, 110th Field Artillery Regiment.

The 110th also provided 30 Soldiers to fill staff positions within the Joint Detention Group, whose mission was the care of the detainees.



A Soldier stands guard on a cell block inside Camp Five at the detention center on Naval Base Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, Nov. 14, 2006. Camp Five is one of six camps that comprise the detention center and has been built with many features that can be found in maximum-security prisons in the United States. Camp Five is where the most non-compliant and hostile detainees are held.

The Soldiers were mobilized Jan. 5, 2006, and trained at Fort Lewis, Wash., before deploying to Cuba a month later, on Feb. 9. They departed Guantanamo Bay on March 2, 2007 and arrived home in Maryland March 9. A “Freedom Salute” ceremony was held in Baltimore June 3 to honor the Soldiers’ accomplishments.



A Soldier with E Company, 629th Military Intelligence Battalion, keeps watch from a guard tower at the JTF-Guantanamo detention center Nov. 13, 2006. The company's missions included perimeter security and acting as a quick reaction force should something happen inside the detention center.

Constellation Care Packages

Two Maryland Guardsmen help children of Constellation Energy employees as they assemble 1,300 care packages for the Maryland Army National Guard's 58th Infantry Brigade Combat Team. Operation Constellation Kids was part of the day's activities for children of Constellation Energy employees as the company celebrated national Take Our Daughters and Sons to work day. The 1,300 care packages contained items requested by the Soldiers of the unit, including stationery, envelopes, sunscreen, batteries, CDs, DVDs and cans of Old Bay seasoning. Maj. Gen. Bruce F. Tuxill, the adjutant general for Maryland, was on hand to accept the care packages from the hundreds of Constellation Energy kids who worked to assemble them.



Community Resources Help Soldiers Cope With Redeployment

By Chief Warrant Officer Bonny Bell
National Guard Bureau, Army Personnel Division

In the year since the Army implemented the Post Deployment Health Reassessment Program, more than 40,000 Army National Guard Soldiers have participated in the comprehensive health screening. The program is designed to help identify deployment-related health concerns and assist Soldiers in accessing the health and re-adjustment services to which they are entitled, at no personal cost. The program includes a screening with a health-care provider and, if necessary, referral to the most convenient Veteran Affairs (VA) Medical Facility, military treatment facility, or TRICARE provider. All 54 States and Territories have participated in this program, adapting it to the unique needs of their Citizen-Soldiers.

The Maryland Army National Guard has taken the Post Deployment Health Reassessment Program one step forward by coordinating these events to be hosted at Maryland VA Medical Centers. The events include benefit experts from the VA and Vet Center staff who advise the Soldiers on the services to which they are entitled and VA administrative specialists

who enroll Soldiers in the VA. John O'Brien, social work executive for the Maryland VA said, "The benefit of a Post Deployment Health Reassessment event at a VA Medical Center is that the Soldiers have a better idea of who we are and the knowledge that the VA wants to make the transition to care as simple as possible."

To augment available resources, medical professionals from the Maryland Defense Force, a uniformed military agency of volunteers under the Maryland Military Department, meet with Soldiers to assess their combat-related health concerns. The volunteers include primary care providers and behavioral health specialists.

"The greatest single accomplishment of these screenings is the cooperation of the VA, the Maryland Defense Force and the Maryland Army National Guard," said Lt. Col. Michael Gafney, PDHRA program manager for the Maryland Army National Guard. "Providers from all agencies worked together seamlessly to get the Soldiers screened, enrolled and assigned follow-up appointments on the spot." According to Gafney the success of these

events has solidified the partnership between the Maryland Army National Guard and the VA Medical Center in Baltimore for future PDHRA events.

The Maryland Army National Guard's program is just one example of the ways in which Army National Guard units across the country are taking care of Soldiers returning from combat-deployments. We have learned over the past few years that deployment health concerns may not be noticed immediately after deployment. Furthermore, the Army National Guard recognizes that Soldiers focused on going home may be reluctant to report their concerns at demobilization, since going home is their top priority. Finally, readjustment issues may not emerge until a Soldier re-enters their work and family environment. After Soldiers have had time to reflect on deployment and post-deployment experiences, they may be in a better position to identify concerns and questions they wish to discuss with a healthcare provider—and the Post Deployment Health Reassessment Program offers our Citizen-Soldiers an opportunity to do so.

Bird Watching No Longer for the Birds

By Rebecca Cockey, Freestate ChalleNGe Academy

Photo by Jack Douglass

What had at first appeared to be a major disappointment for cadets enrolled in the Freestate ChalleNGe Academy recently turned into a day of fun and learning.

Half of the cadets enrolled at the National Guard program in Aberdeen were feeling left out April 6 when unforeseen circumstances led to the cancellation of a trip to the Gettysburg battlefield, which their fellow cadets had visited the previous day. Seeing the obvious disappointment on their faces, a few of the staff members planned another trip for them so they too, could have a day away from their school-work.

Last minute trips are hard to plan, so the idea was brought up to take the cadets bird watching. We were unsure how at-risk youth would respond to a trip that seemed unexciting. These are teenagers, and like most other teenagers in this country, they have become practically addicted to technology and media outlets. Their main source of entertainment is found through music, television, movies, being logged on to the Internet, playing video games, and talking on their cell phones. Long gone are the days of bike riding, building tree forts, playing an impromptu baseball game in the backyard, and playing hide and go seek in the woods.

The bus carrying the cadets on their last minute trip was armed with nothing but four staff members, one camera, and one bird book. We arrived at the Mariner Point Park in Joppatowne, Md., with the first of two groups. They got off of the bus and just looked puzzled at how we, the staff, could think that this small park would make up for an entire day trip that they had missed out on, especially because it was 40 degrees outside—if that—and the wind was howling.

Jack Douglas, an assistant teacher at Freestate ChalleNGe Academy and also a photography teacher at Harford Community College, was an experienced bird watcher and brought along his digital camera. He gave the cadets a short lesson on bird watching and how important it was to stay quiet. He also taught them how to respect the wildlife that they saw. With that, we were off on what would become a trip that would not soon be forgotten.

Within the first five minutes of the trip, the puzzled and disappointed looks on the

cadets' faces had vanished. For some of them, this was the first time they had ever taken the time to really enjoy their surroundings. There was a look of amazement on their faces when they realized how many birds there were and how many different varieties there were just in this small area. Some of them took mental pictures of unidentified birds so they could research them later on.

"The park seemed like a place where you could forget about all of your problems," said Cadet Derrick Silver, who came to the program from Prince George's County.

Besides many species of birds, Mariner Point Park is the home to some pretty fearless squirrels. A few of the cadets spotted a small number of squirrels and went running ahead. For most, the sight of a black squirrel was a first, and some even said they wished they could take a picture because their families back home wouldn't believe them. An especially humorous moment came when one of the cadets spotted a dead tree, with a sign on it that read "The Squirrel Hilton." At first, some of the cadets were weary of the squirrels; these being the same cadets that were terrified of the deer on Aberdeen Proving Ground when they arrived in January. However, they too quickly fell under the spell of nature and caught squirrel fever. Cadets were laying on the ground trying to get a closer look at these seemingly simple creatures.

"This is the first time that I ever came face to face with a black squirrel...you would never get to do that in the city," said Cadet Christopher Martin, of Baltimore.

It was a true joy to see the faces of teenagers who sometimes seem so unreachable. I, personally, have worked at Freestate ChalleNGe Academy for three years and this may have been one of the most rewarding trips I have ever participated in.

Besides those cadets who couldn't wait to get their hands on the bird book, there were also cadets who had the chance to use the camera that Douglas brought along. Here was an adult trusting them with something they have never had the chance to use before. I think we may now have sparked a new hobby interest in quite a few of the cadets.

One cadet was overheard saying, "I think we should do community service



A Freestate ChalleNGe Academy cadet gets up close and personal with a furry friend.

here to clean up the trash and give the animals a cleaner place to live."

An adult sometimes can only dream of hearing a teenager say, so unselfishly, that they want to help others, even if it is just animals.

"The peace of bird watching brought peace to me for the first time," Christopher Martin said.

Who knew bird watching could be a therapeutic shot in the arm for some of our nation's troubled teens. There were also those cadets that asked if they could return to the park later on in their class in hopes of seeing more creatures.

"It was nice to be able to get away from Aberdeen Proving Ground, from a constant sound of ordnance testing, to a place of peace," said Cadet Savvas Pantelides, a resident of Anne Arundel County.

To me, it is completely amazing, how you can take a group of at-risk youth, expose them to something so seemingly simple and overlooked, and see the results that come from it. We were able to spark interests in cadets we hadn't been able to do before. We were able to see cadets working together as a team to sneak up on birds to get a good picture. We were able to witness a true transformation.

Sometimes, the simple things in life, and those that are so often disregarded, are those that provide the most joy.

Civilian Leaders Get Overview of Emergency Capabilities

By Quentin Banks, Military Department Public Affairs

The Maryland Military Department hosted a number of senior officials of the state and federal government during March and April. A command briefing, describing the department's capabilities was conducted on March 2 for Gov. Martin O'Malley at the state Emergency Operations Center. In addition to the briefing, the governor was given a tour of the Maryland Joint Operations Center or MJOC.

The MJOC is the state's watch center, which operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week and is staffed by Maryland Emergency Management Agency and Maryland National Guard personnel. It monitors a variety of public safety events around the state and keeps the state's leadership informed. The events the MJOC monitors can include law enforcement events, transportation disruptions, and massive threats to property or public safety.

The MJOC maintains communications with local jurisdictions, contiguous states, the District of Columbia and the federal government. The center also acts as a dis-



Governor Martin O'Malley speaks with Charlie Simpson, Maryland Joint Operations Center manager, during a visit to MEMA.



patch center for the Office of the State Fire Marshal and the Spill Response Team for the Maryland Department of the Environment.

In addition to a tour of the MJOC, specialized equipment from the 32nd Civil Support Team as well as the command and control vehicles from the Joint Force Headquarters were on static display for the governor's inspection.

A similar briefing was provided to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff, Under Secretary (and FEMA Director) R. David Paulison and members of his staff on March 15, to Army Maj. Gen. Guy Swann, commander

of the Military District of Washington and his staff, and to U.S. Rep. John Sarbanes and his staff on April 12.



Secretary of Homeland Security Michael Chertoff meets with members of Maryland National Guard's 32nd Civil Support Team while visiting MEMA.

Deener Inducted into Hall of Fame

By 1st Lt. Wayde Minami, MDNG Public Affairs

A Maryland Army National Guard Soldier was one of five distinguished women inducted into the Maryland Women's Hall of Fame by the Maryland Commission on Women March 14.

Col. Annette M. Deener, chief of staff of the Maryland Army National Guard, was honored at an induction ceremony held in the Miller Senate Office Building in Annapolis.

Deener, an officer with more than 30 years of service, is the first woman to hold this position in the history of the Maryland National Guard. She functions as the senior federal full-time Army National Guard management official and serves as principal executive assistant and advisor on Army National Guard matters to the Adjutant General. As such, she is responsible for directing the administration, coordination, planning, execution and supervision of all Army National Guard programs.

"This is quite an honor to be included in the Hall of Fame with so many distinguished women," Deener said.

Deener, who was born in Cumberland, Md., is a lifelong Maryland resident. She graduated from Allegany High School in 1971 and attended Western Maryland College (now McDaniel) where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in 1975. That same year, she enlisted in the United States Army Reserve in the 698th Supply Company, Frederick, Md. She continued her education and graduated from Frostburg State College with a Master of Science

degree in Business Management in 1978. After 15 months of training, she was commissioned as a second lieutenant through the Maryland Army National Guard Officer Candidate School in July, 1978 and transferred to the Maryland Army National Guard. In addition to her civilian education, she is also a 1998 graduate of the Army War College. Deener served two years as the Army National Guard representative to the Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services where she helped influence career opportunities for women in military service on a national level.

She began working full-time for the Maryland Army National Guard in 1984 as the first Management Information Systems Officer for the National Guard. Over the next twenty years, Deener would go on to be the Director of Information Management, the Director of Military Personnel, and the Director of Human Resources, making her the only person in the Maryland Army National Guard's history to hold three separate directorate level positions. During this time, she would become only the second woman in the Maryland Army National Guard full-time workforce to attain the rank of colonel.

Her numerous awards include the



Col. Annette M. Deener, chief of staff of the Maryland Army National Guard, was recently inducted into the Maryland Women's Hall of Fame.

Meritorious Service Medal with four oak leaf clusters and the Maryland Distinguished Service Cross. Punctuating her accomplishment is the fact that she has done all of these things while raising a family. She resides in Sharpsburg with her husband and daughter. A son, also in the National Guard, resides in Frederick.

The Maryland Commission for Women and Women Legislators of Maryland established the Maryland Women's Hall of Fame in 1985. Individuals are selected for induction through a process that begins with an annual statewide call for nominations. An all-volunteer selection committee reviews the applications and selects inductees.

Eastern Shore Employers Recognized by ESGR



SALISBURY, Md. – The Maryland Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve recognized 75 area employers for outstanding service and continued support to the national defense effort Apr. 19.

In a ceremony held during its Eastern Shore Employer Awards Breakfast, the ESGR presented certificates of appreciation as well as the prestigious "Above and Beyond" award to area employers that

had been nominated by employees who are also members of the National Guard or Reserves.

The companies recognized today provided support such as salary differential, continued health care benefits, and family assistance to their employees and families while the Guardsman or Reservist was serving on active duty.

One employer, Machining Technologies, Inc. of Salisbury, has been selected as

the state's Freedom Award nominee. The Freedom Award is awarded by the Secretary of Defense to those companies that provide exceptional support to their employees that are Guard or Reserve members.

The Freedom Awards ceremony will be held Sept. 12 at the Ronald Reagan Building International Trade Center in Washington, D.C.

SMP Offers Soldiers Alternative to OCS

By 2nd Lt. Danielle M. McGriff, USAR

What is the SMP, where did it derive from, and who established it?

The Simultaneous Membership Program, also referred to as the SMP is designed for contracted Reserve Officers Training Course (ROTC) cadets who are simultaneously in the Army National Guard or the Army Reserve.

"The SMP is a great opportunity for cadets to ask questions and learn from officers who have experience so that you may learn from their mistakes," said Capt. Louis Waters, Jr., Maryland Army National Guard. "As an SMP cadet you are under the direct leadership of several different grades of officers, helping to make you a better officer."

To be eligible to participate in the program, the Soldier must be at least a sophomore in college and currently have a Grade Point Average of 2.0 or higher. Soldiers also must have completed Basic Combat Training and Advanced Individual Training.

The program is only offered to Soldiers who are contracted and considered to be non-scholarship. They must also be in good standing with the Army National Guard or the Army Reserve at the time of signing the SMP contract.

SMP contracted cadets are eligible to receive federal tuition assistance, state tuition reimbursement, ROTC stipends, Montgomery GI BILL with the KICKER—which can range from anywhere between \$600 to \$1,000 a month and an advance to pay grade E-5.

2nd Lt. Ernesto Gumbs, a former participant in the SMP, said that the program is a great opportunity and can help full-time college students pay for books and other daily essentials.

According to Cadet Roberto Pineda, who is currently a participant in the SMP at Bowie State University, the SMP offers more financial stabilization for college as opposed to going through the Officer Candidate School program (OCS). He said that as a college student in the program you are able to take more classes, and have money for tuition and for leisure activities.



Cadet Roberto Pineda, a Maryland Army National Guard member, is a current participant in the SMP.

Even-though the SMP can help bring financial stability to college students, that stability doesn't come at an easy price. According to Cadet Olubusola Shokunbi, an SMP participant, the program is very strenuous on family life, part-time employment, and social life.

"There's not enough time in the day to do everything that is required for ROTC and the work that Army National Guard or Army Reserve units require from their cadets," said Shokunbi. "And let's not forget your academic requirements."

According to several ROTC cadets it's easier to get your commission while you are already attending school, than to wait until after you've already received your degree, or have acquired the 60 credit hours needed to get accepted into the OCS program. Gumbs said ROTC takes up much of your leisure time, like your weekends, and some of your nights, but it's all worth it in the end.

"I attribute a lot of my success to my stint in the SMP; it has helped mold my civilian career as well as my military

career. I was mentored by some of the most professional people in the United States military," said Gumbs. "They gave me guidance on branching, and allowed me to see whether or not I would be better suited on active duty or in the reserves. The SMP program is all about shaping and molding the minds of young Soldiers and turning them into leaders, it made me a leader."

According to Shokunbi you are truly exposed to the life of an officer through ROTC and the SMP because for the most part you work with officers hand in hand everyday, which helps equip cadets with the mental, physical, and the managerial capabilities to become a leader within the United States Army. Those qualities also are attributed to the lessons you learn from other officers.

"For instance, I myself was given the opportunity to go to Korea and shadow officers from my unit at Fort Belvoir," said Shokunbi.

MDANG First to Field New A-10C

By Jeff Rhodes, Lockheed Martin Corp.

Photos by Senior Master Sgt. Jim Foard

“Every day when I wake up, I know exactly how many days are left before we go into theater. Standing up a new system is a challenge, but facing a near-term deployment is a huge weight. We are going to be on the world stage. We have to be at our best.”

That is how Lt. Col. Dan Marino, the 175th Wing’s operations group commander, describes the dual task his Maryland Air National Guard unit has faced. The 175th Wing’s 104th Fighter Squadron is currently completing a conversion to an upgraded version of the A-10 close air support aircraft and preparing for an Air Expeditionary Force deployment to Afghanistan later this year.

The A-10, officially christened Thunderbolt II, but universally referred to as Warthog because of its ungainly appearance, is the first US Air Force aircraft specifically designed for close air support of ground forces. The A-10 entered service in 1976.

The Warthog, or more simply, Hog, is a relatively uncomplicated design. The Air Force’s requirements at the time were straightforward – the aircraft had to carry a large ordnance load, have extended loiter time over the battlefield, provide good maneuverability at low speeds and low altitudes, be easy to maintain, and be able to operate from small, forward bases.

The thinking at the time was that the A-10 would have to provide close air sup-

port and be able to halt a Soviet advance coming through Germany.

“If you look at the history of the A-10, every new capability, every new system put on the jet is an add-on,” notes Maj. Doug Baker, a 2,000-hour pilot with the 104th FS. “After continually adding systems, we had an aircraft with all this extra stuff it was never originally designed to have. Under the upgrade program, we are ripping out all of the old independent systems and replacing them with a comprehensive system that is expandable and it works.”

The Precision Engagement, or PE, significantly increases the pilots’ situational awareness and their ability to accurately detect, identify, and destroy targets in all weather from greater alti-



tudes and distances using precision guided weapons.

PE is a five-year program to upgrade all 356 aircraft now in the Air National Guard, Air Force Reserve Command, and active-duty Air Force A-10 fleet. During the 1970s, two modified A-10s were designated A-10B, so the modified A-10As are redesignated A-10Cs.

The first prototype A-10C was flown in 2005 and the 104th FS received its first production A-10C last August.

Most of the changes are related to avionics. The A-10 is now wired to carry either the Sniper XR or the Litening AT advanced targeting pod. The upgrade also includes an uprated 1760 data bus, which enables the A-10 to carry the Joint Direct Attack Munition series and the Wind-Corrected Munitions Dispenser; and a digital stores management system.

The Situational Awareness Data Link, or SADL, is also part of the upgrade.

"Being a guy who never flew with a radar, seeing the SADL picture is magic," Baker observes. "We share data and it is all secure. With SADL, I never have to input target coordinates manually. I just slave the targeting pod to what I'm looking at and the system figures out the coordinates. Then it sends the information to the other jets so everyone is looking at the same thing."

In the cockpit, the A-10C pilot has two five-by-five-inch color multifunction displays with a moving map as well as a new control stick and throttle.

"The jet was all analog and manual before," notes Marino. "I had to reach up to the instrument panel and throw switches and push buttons to drop a bomb. Now, I can change the switch positions and drop weapons without taking my hands off the throttle or stick."

The last four 104th FS pilots went through conversion training in March. The unit now has fifteen A-10Cs on the ramp, with six more coming because of

force realignments. But getting to this point took effort.

The 104th FS and the 110th Fighter Wing at Battle Creek, Michigan, were chosen to lead the fleet.

"We committed the lead aircraft to the program. That was key to keeping the line moving," notes Campbell, who moved his family to Nevada to stand up a Guard detachment at Nellis AFB outside of Las Vegas. There, the 104th Fighter Squadron and the active duty

The Baltimore A-10Cs will deploy first this fall, followed shortly afterward by A-10Cs from Battle Creek, Mich.

"The Hog will never be faster than other jets, but now we can do almost everything else," notes Marino. "With JDAM, we can hit a pop-up target. We will be doing non-traditional surveillance and reconnaissance. We will go out and check for IEDs in front of a convoy. The Hog was designed to destroy armor columns, and now we look for a group

of four or five people in the woods. PE allows us to find and fix the target rapidly. With SADL, target information comes up on the net. We can drop JDAM, 500-, or 1,000-pound bombs and launch Maverick."

"The change from analog to digital is huge," says Campbell. "The infrastructure is in the airplane and the system can accommodate growth. It is better and easier and faster to update. Close air support requires talking to troops on the ground and delivering a weapon very near them. The A-10C makes us much better at that."

"Any time we put troops on the ground, we will need that type of CAS," Campbell continues. "If we have the sensors, we can perform

CAS from 10,000 feet. With the A-10C, we can do battle damage assessment from standoff distances. I can still roll in with the gun or with a bomb if I have to. But now, I have to expose myself to threats only if the situation warrants taking such a risk, not because the aircraft's capabilities are limited."

The drawdown of the A-10 is expected to begin in the early 2020s when the F-35 comes online in sufficient numbers. The last A-10 is scheduled for retirement in 2028. Notes Campbell: "We can't stay around forever, but the Hog has to be viable until it is time to go."

This article is reprinted from Code One magazine with permission of Lockheed Martin Corp.



A Maryland Air National Guard pilot prepares for a mission in the new A-10C.

422nd Test and Evaluation Squadron brought the A-10C into operation.

"The Guard operation at Nellis is the big success story," adds Campbell. "We kept sortie generation up and made sure we got the test points. We provided a lot of experience on the pilot and maintenance sides. We have been living the Total Force concept at Nellis since November 2005."

"We had the Guard and the active duty embedded together at Nellis," recalls CMSgt. Terry Allen, the wing's maintenance chief. "We have people who have been working on this jet for 20 years who helped develop the training documents for the A-10C. We sent close to 50 percent of our people to train at Nellis for 35 days at a time."

THE LECTERN

This segment by Chap. (Lt. Col. Md.) Charles H. Nalls, Director, Chaplain Corps, MDDF

In 1917, as American troops were preparing to sail across the seas in order to take to the battlefields of France and Belgium in World War I, Theodore Roosevelt was asked to inscribe a message in the pocket New Testament that each of the Soldiers would be given.

He happily agreed, and began by giving a striking call for a life of balance that he called the "Micah Mandate." It is a message that still resonates across the years and the many faith groups that make up our military family.

Roosevelt began with the following: "He has shown you, O man, what is good and what the Lord requires of you, but to do justice and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God." (Micah 6:8). Based on this passage, he then urged troops to "lead the world in both word and deed through unimpeachable moral uprightness."

In the brief message to the Soldiers that followed, the former president addressed the spiritual dimen-

sion of the struggle in which the nation was involved and what it means to conduct oneself with honor amid that struggle. To paraphrase those words, Do justice, and therefore fight valiantly against those that stand for the reign of evil on this Earth. Love mercy, treat your enemies well, succor the afflicted, treat every man or woman as if they were your brother or sister, care for the little children, and be tender with the old and helpless. Walk humbly.

More than 90 years later, Roosevelt's charge speaks to us in amid the uncertainties and struggles of our own day. Honor on the battlefield, and in our lives of military service, comes from living by a code that rescues the warrior from barbarism and elevates the profession of arms. It means understanding soldiering as a spiritual service as much as a martial role. As Stephen Mansfield, author of *The Faith of the American Soldier*, observed, "Honorable soldiers are devoted to the moral objectives of their nation in war, are willing to lay their lives on an altar

of sacrifice, are courageous in subduing the enemy yet compassionate to civilians and prisoners, are devoted to a Godly esprit de corps..."

More than 90 years before Theodore Roosevelt's note to departing troops, Alexis de Tocqueville, a French nobleman touring our fledgling Nation wrote, "America is great because America is good, and if America ever ceases to be good, America will cease to be great." At the core, honor, informed by our particular faith, and goodness are our calling and the way to greatness.

The MDDF Chaplain Corps currently is recruiting ordained ministers, priests, rabbis, and imams, as well as chaplain assistants for volunteer service to our State.

You can learn more about the MDDF and how to qualify at www.mddefenseforce.org or contact Chap. (Lt. Col. Md.) Charles H. Nalls, Director, Chaplain Corps at 202-262-5519 for further information on the many opportunities available in this rewarding ministry.

Heat Savvy Can Save Lives

By Lori Yerdon, U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center

Hot weather poses potential risk to Guardsmen and family members alike, and individuals need to realize that heat injury prevention is not only a command and leadership responsibility, but a personal one too.

Heat injuries are avoidable yet can affect anyone. Individuals not used to hot weather, especially when it's combined with high humidity, are particularly susceptible. Young children, individuals with a long-term illness, and people that work in enclosed environments such as aircraft cockpits or vehicle interiors specially run the risk of becoming heat casualties. The use of supplements may also increase the chance dehydration.

According to the Army's Office of the Surgeon, 220 heat stroke cases were documented in 2006; of those, 57 service

members were hospitalized, 163 were outpatients, and two died. The injuries happened both in garrison and operational environments, and occurred during physical fitness training and testing, training exercises, and other activities including recreational exertion and non-exertion activities.

The best defense against a heat-related incident is prevention. Before engaging in an outdoor activity or mission in the heat, the identification and assessment of potential hazards, such as a high heat category or the physical exertion level of the activity, can reduce an individual's chance of becoming a victim of heatstroke, heat exhaustion or heat cramps.

By developing and implementing controls, leaders reduce the chance of a unit member succumbing to a heat

injury. Having sufficient hydration sources and providing rest cycles as needed are some of the measures that leaders can take.

Applying similar control measures when off duty can also protect family members. Drinking more fluids, avoiding alcohol or drinks full of sugar or caffeine, and staying indoors when possible are several ways to beat the heat. Additionally, wearing a wide-brimmed hat, sunglasses and putting on sunscreen of SPF 15 or higher, diminishes the possibility of a heat-related incident.

For more information on heat injury prevention, visit http://chppm-www.apgea.army.mil/heat/#_HIA and for more information on the 101 Critical Days of Summer safety campaign visit <https://crc.army.mil>

Mil Dep Raises Funds for Local Charity

The Maryland Military Department recently raised \$440 for Baltimore based charity Santa Claus Anonymous. According to Command Sgt. Maj. (Ret.) Wilson J. Thornton, Jr., Military Department coordinator for the fund drive the department began raising funds in the Fall of 2006. The department has

been making an annual donation to the organization since 1993.

Founded in 1934 by former Baltimore mayor, Theodore R. McKeldin, Santa Claus Anonymous is a unique volunteer non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization. Each year, keenly aware of the thousands of children in the Baltimore

metropolitan area who go without presents at holiday time, the organization raises money to give every child a Christmas.

The MMD's donation will go towards Santa Claus Anonymous' 2007 goal of raising \$300,000 for their cause.

Department Honors African Americans at Patriots Day Celebration

The Maryland Military Department participated in the 20th Annual African-American Patriots Day on Saturday Feb. 24 at the War Memorial Building in Baltimore.

The ceremony was dedicated to the memory of the late Maryland State Senator Decatur W. Trotter, who was co-founder of the African-American Consortium, the sponsor of the event.

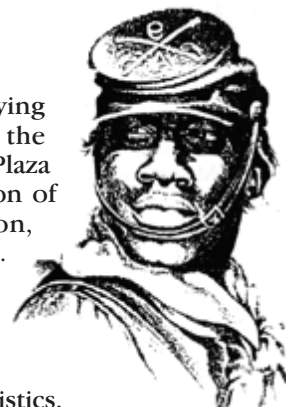
Representing the Maryland Military Department were Maj. Gen. Bruce F. Tuxill, the adjutant general of Maryland, and Brig. Gen. Edward Ballard, 29th Infantry Division assistant division commander.

In addition to representatives of the Maryland Army and Air National Guard, the ceremony was attended by members from various veteran organizations and by students enrolled in the Freestate ChalleNGe Program.

The celebration was marked by tributes to Mr. Gerald Eldridge, Mr. Thomas D. Wallace, Col. (Ret) Richard E. Young, and Col. (Ret) Charles Williams. These individuals received recognition, including citations from Gov. Martin O'Malley and other governmental agencies for their services to Maryland veterans.

The Maryland National Guard Honor Guards Color Guard carried the colors to

the wreath laying ceremony at the War Memorial Plaza at the conclusion of the celebration, where Col. Wayne Johnson, Maryland Army National Guard director of logistics, and Lt. Col. Marco Harris, commander of the Maryland National Guard's 115th Military Police Battalion, laid the wreath.



New Scholarship for Maryland OIF/OEF Veterans

Hodson Trust Star Scholarship has started a full scholarship – which covers 100 percent of tuition, room, board, books and mandatory fees – at Johns Hopkins University, Hood College, Washington College and St. John's College. This scholarship is for undergraduate as well as graduate programs. It starts with the 2007/08 school year. Recipients will apply for all benefits to which they're already entitled and the scholarship will pick up the rest.

The following are required for this scholarship:

- Proof of OIF/OEF (60 day minimum on ground/air space or support in surrounding areas) – DD 214 or documentation of service-related injuries if less than 60 days in country
- Proof of Maryland residency
- Apply for and accept all federal and state need-based programs (Waiver, FTA, STAR, G.I. Bill)
- Meet all requirements for application

The scholarship can be found on-line at <http://www.hodson-trust.org> or call Eileen Dickey at (302) 429-9427.



ANOTHER COLLEGE JOINS THE STATE TUITION WAIVER PROGRAM

Capitol College has signed on with the Maryland National Guard as a "Partner in Education" and is now offering Guard members 50 percent off tuition for the first 12 credits of undergraduate or graduate study per academic year. Capitol is the first college to offer 50 percent off on graduate tuition.

In addition to the discount, Guardsmen can still use FTA and State Tuition Assistance as well as the G.I. Bill.

Capitol is one of only 75 colleges and universities that certify graduates for DoD and NSA secure network certification and they have a greater than 90 percent job placement rate in DoD and NSA positions.

For more information and application procedures, visit <http://www.capitol-college.edu/>

Family Readiness at the Ready

During the planning stages for a deployment, service members go through training and a series of tasks to prepare them for their departure. It is important to make sure that the same is done for your family.

There are many different types of families all across the state of Maryland—some are dealing with their first deployment, and some are dealing with a second, third, or even a fourth deployment. Each one is going to handle the separation from their Guard member in a different and special way. Please remember that the Maryland Family Readiness Program is here to help, and has information for families and servicemembers before the deployment, while their servicemember is gone, and for reunion. Although each family will deal with the deployment differently, it is important to remember that there is a large and extensive network of Family

Readiness Groups and volunteers across the state to offer support and assistance to you during this deployment. Additionally, there are Family Assistance Centers located in Baltimore, Towson, Hagerstown, and Annapolis that are excellent sources of information.

Please remember to include your children in discussions about the deployment, and what to expect while the servicemember is away. The Maryland National Guard Youth Program is a great resource to families that are going through the stages of deployment.

For more information on the Maryland Family Readiness Program or the Youth Program please call 410-576-6019, or toll free at 1-877-399-6221. Please remember that the Family Program is here to assist and support your family.



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Maryland Military Department

Digest

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Maryland National Guard Family Readiness Office
410-576-6019

Department of Information Management Help Desk
410-702-9600

Maryland National Guard Chaplain's Office
410-576-6124

Red Cross
Central Maryland Chapter, Baltimore
1-888-737-4306

Southern Maryland Chapter, La Plata
301-934-2066

Lower Shore Chapter, Salisbury
410-749-5331

Frederick County Chapter, Walkersville
301-662-5131

Maryland Poison Control
1-800-222-1222

Websites

Maryland Government Website
www.maryland.gov

Maryland Military Department Website
www.mdmildep.org

Maryland Emergency Management Agency
www.mema.state.md.us

Maryland State Employee Central Payroll Bureau
compnet.comp.state.md.us